Numb. 13531. [429]

The London Gazette
EXTRAORDINARY.

Published by Authority.

MONDAY, MAY 27, 1793.

Whitehall, May 27.

CAPTAIN Craufurd, Aide de Camp to His Royal Highneſs the Duke of York, arrived here Yeſterday Evening, with a Diſpatch from Sir James Murray, Bart. Adjutant-General to the Forces under the Command of His Royal Highneſs, of which the following is a Copy.

Famars, May 25, 1793.

SIR,

I AM happy to have the Honor of informing you, that the Combined Forces, under the Command of of the Prince of Saxe Cobourg and of His Royal Highneſs, have defeated the Enemy, and driven them from the ſtrong Camp of Famars.

A Body of Sixteen Battalions, viz. the Brigade of Britiſh, Two Battalions of Hanoverian Guards, Two Battalions of Hanoverian Grenadiers, and Eight Battalions of Auſtrian Infantry, with Six Squadrons of Britiſh Light Dragoons, Four of Hanoverian and Eight of Auſtrian Cavalry, with a great Proportion of heavy Artillery, aſſembled very early in the Morning of the 23d, under the Command of His Royal Highneſs. They were to arrive at Day-Break upon the Bank of the Ronelle, near the Village of Ortie, to eſtabliſh Bridges to paſs the River, and turn the Right of the Enemy. Another Column, of nearly equal Force, under General Ferraris, was deſtined to attack the Works which had been thrown up upon the right Bank of the Ronelle, and, after carrying them, to ſecond the Operations of His Royal Highneſs as Circumſtances might direct: A Column, under the Command of General Colloredo, was employed to obſerve Valenciennes; another, under General Otto, to cover Queſnoy. The Enemy attempted an Attack upon the latter, in which they were repulſed, with the Loſs of Three Pieces of Cannon: Two were taken by a Detachment of Huſſars. A thick Fog occaſioned ſome Delay in the Advance of the Troops. Upon their Approach to the Ronelle ſeveral Batteries were opened from the oppoſite Side, but from ſuch a Diſtance as to produce little Effect.

They were anſwered and kept in Awe by the Auſtrian and Hanoverian heavy Artillery. After ſome Time ſpent in cannonading, Two Diviſions of Huſſars paſſed the River without Oppoſition at a Ford in the Village of Merſhe. His Royal Highneſs ordered

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dered the Brigade of Guards, Two Battalions of Auſtrian Infantry, Six Squadrons of Britiſh and Two of Hanoverian Light Cavalry, to purſue the ſame Route, in order to take the Batteries in Flank, and ſecure a Paſſage for the Reſt of his Troops. This Movement had the deſired Succeſs; the Enemy retreated from all their Poſts, falling back upon a Redoubt which they had thrown up upon the commanding Heights behind the Village of Famars.

General Ferraris, after cannonading ſome Time, attacked, upon his Side, and carried the Entrenchments by Aſſault. The Troops of the different Nations diſplayed the utmoſt Firmneſs and Intrepidity in this arduous Undertaking. The Britiſh Troops, who had this Opportunity of diſtinguiſhing themſelves, were the Brigade of the Line, viz. the 14th and 53d Regiments, with the Battalion formed from their Light Infantry and Grenadier Companies, commanded by Major-General Abercromby. * I incloſe a Return of their Loſs. Seven Pieces of Cannon and near 200 Priſoners were taken in the Redoubts. Some Squadrons of French Cavalry appearing at this Time, and threatening the Flank of the Infantry, though ſuperior in Number, they were attacked with the greateſt Valour by the Regiment of Hanoverian Garde de Corps. The Conteſt was of the ſevereſt Kind; the Squadrons mixed with one another, and the French were defeated, though not without conſiderable Loſs to the Garde de Corps; the Regiment had, upon that and other Occaſions, Three Officers killed, One taken, and Four wounded, and 67 killed and wounded, Non-commiſſioned Officers and Privates. The Reſt of the Hanoverian Troops loſt about 35 Men killed and wounded.

His Royal Highneſs advanced, with a Part of the Troops, to a hollow Way, within a ſmall Diſtance of the Works; but obſerving, from the Diſpoſition of the Enemy, that they could not be carried at that Time without conſiderable Loſs, from which no proportionable Benefit would ariſe, he thought it better to defer the Attack till next Morning at Day-break, approaching and turning them in the Night.

The Enemy, apprehenſive of the Conſequences of ſuch a Movement, abandoned the Works as ſoon as it was dark, and withdrew into Valenciennes. This important Poſition is now occupied by His Royal Highneſs, who has been joined by the Reſt of his Column.

It appears that the French Generals, foreſeeing they could not defend the Paſſage of the Ronelle, and unwilling to riſk the Event of a deciſive Engagement in ſo confined a Situation as that between the Ronelle and the Scheldt, made early Preparation for Retreat. They paſſed the Scheldt, and were ſeen marching towards Denain. Captain Craufurd, Aide de Camp to His Royal Highneſs, obſerving a Column of Baggage, which was proceeding towards the River, took Two Squadrons of the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons, though the Convoy was at that Time rather in the Rear of their own Works, and attacked and diſperſed the Troops who eſcorted it, killed and wounded between 50 and 60, took 56 Priſoners, and 8 Waggons and 30 Horſes. The Enemy advanced in Force from the Camp, and attempted to cut off this Detachment; they however effected their Retreat with the Loſs of only 3 Men killed and 3 Horſes. The Enterprize and good Conduct of Captain Craufurd upon this Occaſion, as well as the Behaviour of the Men and Officers of the 11th Regiment of Light Dragoons, has been highly approved of by His Royal Highneſs.

General Clairfait, upon his Side, attacked and carried the Heights of Anzain, a Poſt of the utmoſt Conſequence, which, to a certain Degree, overlooks the Citadel of Valenciennes, and which compleats the Inveſtment of the Place.

In this Manner, with a Loſs of Men, which muſt be deemed very inconſiderable when compared with the Importance of the Object which has been attained, have the Enemy been obliged to abandon a Poſition upon which they had placed great Reliance, which they had occupied long, and fortified with Care, and to leave Valenciennes and Condé to their Fate.

In the Variety of Attacks which took Place, I cannot at this Moment ſtate with Preciſion the Loſs upon either Side: That of the Combined Armies is very ſmall upon this Side of the Scheldt, not above 250 Men killed and wounded: That of General Clairfait's Corps by Anzain was more conſiderable than any other, and equal perhaps to the Whole.

* The Hanoverians were the 4th and 10th Regiments, and the 3d Battalion of Grenadiers. Lieutenant General Walmoden commanded the Britiſh and Hanoverians.

Whole. That of the Enemy was unqueſtionably much greater.

Captain Craufurd, who carries this Letter, will explain any further Particulars of which you may be deſirous to be informed.

I have the Honor to be, &c.

(Signed) JA. MURRAY.

The Right Hon. Henry Dundas,
&c. &c. &c.

Return of the Killed amd Wounded of the Second Brigade of Britiſh Infantry, commanded by Major-General Abercromby, in the Action of the 23d of May, 1793.

Flank Corps, 14th Regiment. 2 Rank and File wounded.

Ditto, 37th Regiment. 1 Drummer killed; 2 Rank and File wounded.

Ditto, 53d Regiment. 1 Rank and File killed; 2 Rank and File wounded.

14th Regiment. 2 Serjeants, 5 Rank and File wounded.

53d Regiment. 1 Rank and File wounded.

Total. 1 Drummer, 1 Rank and File, killed; 2 Serjeants and 12 Rank and File, wounded.

(Signed) *Ra. Abercromby*, Major-General.

Printed by EDWARD JOHNSTON in Warwick-Lane.